



**Belfast**

# City Investment Service

Advice and support  
for potential investors



**Belfast**  
City Council

# #1 for 'Business Friendliness' in mid-sized and small global cities

*fDi Intelligence, Global Cities of the Future 2018/19*



## We open doors for investors who want to do business in Belfast.

Over the last 10 years, Belfast has been transformed with a range of significant investments from indigenous businesses and foreign direct investors.

We want to continue to grow the city and regional economy by attracting more investment and opening doors for investors who want to do business here.

The Belfast City Investment Service will provide a soft landing for each stage of the investment journey. We will work proactively with potential investors, helping them to make the professional and personal connections necessary to do business here.

## The offer

**From the moment you express an interest, we will work with you step by step at every stage of the process.**

From initial fact finding about the city and its services, to important start up activities such as identifying potential sites or premises, identifying customers and suppliers, recruitment of new staff, or relocating your existing staff and their families; we can help.

We'll provide a dedicated client managed service from pre-investment research, right through to the execution and establishment stages. So whether businesses are looking for a full scale business relocation, considering expanding their existing operations, or simply want to trial doing business in the Belfast at a small scale initially, help is available.



“

Since we started working with staff from the City Investment Service, we have been greatly impressed with the support and advice we have received. The team has been very proactive with help and guidance. We look forward to working with them in a range of other areas in the future.

”

*Geoff Baird, Managing Director, Karcher Centre, Belfast*



## How we can help



### Familiarisation visits

We understand the challenges when locating and deciding upon a city in which to set up a business.

So we'll be happy to assist with an overview of the city and provide familiarisation visits with local businesses, trade bodies and centres of excellence associated with your operation.

We will facilitate your relocation to Belfast, helping to identify essential personal services including housing, schools, colleges, universities, healthcare and leisure to enable your employees to integrate into the city.

Belfast also has a thriving cultural, arts and entertainment sector, which we can showcase through a familiarisation visit.

## How we can help



### Accessing networks

Having links to a network of specialists to operate your business is crucial at the early stages of your development.

We will provide access to local government, public sector and academia networks and specialists which form Belfast's close academic ecosystem.





## How we can help



### Planning advice

We will be able to provide any planning advice that you need, including access to our Pre-Application Discussion service.

We can let you know if you need planning permission and, if you do, discuss the likely issues, and the information you will need to provide with your application.



Belfast City Investment Service has been instrumental to our business in providing knowledge of sector specific businesses and opening doors to key players in the private sector who we will work very closely with to carry out research, using the latest technology to assist with testing innovative solutions, and to diversify our product range.

*David Tyler, Commercial Director, Artemis Technologies Ltd*





# #1 in Europe and #2 worldwide for FDI strategy

*Fdi Magazine global Cities of the Futures 2018 /19*

## Second fastest growing knowledge economy in Europe

*Knowledge Economy Report, 2018*



# #2 overall in mid-sized and small cities

Global Cities of the Future, 2018/19

test  
knowledge  
in the UK


## How we can help



### Skills and training

We understand that skills are critical to getting an operation off the ground.

We will provide guidance and direction on the availability of sector specific support, citywide skills academies, career fairs and events, as well as providing access to third party training providers.



“ Belfast City Investment Service has assisted my business with knowledge and research of incentives for re-investing in Belfast; investment in our most important resource – our staff, developing their skill set, whilst giving other local people the opportunity to re-skill and become part of a thriving hospitality sector in a growing and vibrant city. ”

*Dr. Howard Hastings, Managing Director, Hastings Hotels*



## How we can help



### Supplier and supply chain opportunities

Identifying a local supply chain when locating a new business in a city can be challenging. We will provide vital information on local supply chain opportunities and meet the buyer events in order to help you make connections with local companies with the expertise that will enable you to hit the ground running.

We can also provide information on sector specific supply chain initiatives – opportunities that enhance the capability of particular supply chains.

We are also able to support your corporate social responsibility objectives by providing information on local community organisations, local schools and charitable and community organisations.

A background photograph showing three people in an office environment. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a checkered shirt is looking down at a tablet device. Behind him, two women are visible; one is looking at her phone, and the other is partially obscured. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a modern office space.

“ Belfast City Investment Service has enabled us to engage directly with council on projects such as the redevelopment of the former BHS unit in Castle Lane, discussing a procurement model that would allow us to open up the opportunity to new supply partners with positive discussions and actions regarding potential ‘Meet the Buyer’ events. ”

*Gareth Loye, CEO, M&M Contractors*

# How we can help



## Internationalisation and export opportunities

We are committed to helping your business grow and develop once it is established. We are proud of our active and ongoing Sister City Networks with Boston, Nashville, and Shenyang.

We can leverage such networks and provide access to organisations and diaspora to open up additional business and networking opportunities.

As an active member of the World Trade Centre organisation, we can also provide access to the global WTC network.



The Belfast City Investment Service has been very useful to my business in terms of market knowledge, regulations and compliance within planning, and as an advisory consultancy service with a very friendly and dedicated team.



*Tunde Adeosun, Managing Partner, EasyTax NI*



## How we can help



### Post investment support

We pride ourselves in looking after our investors and the team will provide ongoing support to you.

Investors will be able to access dedicated support to ensure you continue to have access to financial support schemes, business networks, academic support and social connections to ensure that your investment in Belfast remains successful.



# 10 reasons to invest in Belfast



18,000 Annual graduates and post graduates in finance and business disciplines



#1 for 'Business Friendliness' in mid-sized and small global cities 2018/19



Operating costs 12-30% lower on average than the rest of UK and Europe



Tailored support packages to help make your business a success



GVA per head (regionally balanced)



Over 70% of university research is 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'

*Research Excellence Framework 2014*

70%



Almost 75% of investors reinvest in Northern Ireland

75%



3

Three airports within 90 minutes of the city centre with direct flights to over 180 destinations in 40 countries on four continents.



Belfast is one of six UK cities chosen to receive 5G coverage in an immediate roll out by EE



Belfast hosts more than 80 festivals every year



# Voted **#1 region** in the world to visit in 2018

Lonely Planet, 2017



# Live, visit, study, work and do business in Belfast

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 @belfastcc #investinBelfast

 Belfast City Council



**Belfast**  
City Council

Energising  
**Belfast**